

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2002, Applicants hereby elect Group II (Claims 63-85) for prosecution. Claims 1-51, 53, 54, and 56-62 are withdrawn from the above-identified patent application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Consideration of Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants request the Examiner to consider the references submitted in Information Disclosure Statements mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 11, 2002 and March 27, 2002. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith copies of the Information Disclosure Statements and PTO 1449 Forms listing the references.

CONCLUSION

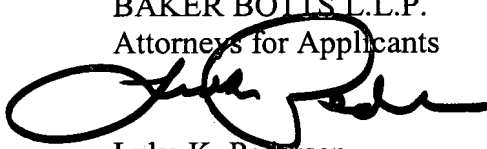
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 63-85.

No additional fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call their attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The Claims have been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel ~~Claims~~ 1-51, 53, 54, and 56-62 without prejudice or disclaimer.

63. A method for discounting a price-per-unit (PPU) of a consumable good, comprising:

determining a first discount on a PPU of a consumable good in response to a first purchase, by a customer, of a first preselected product;

determining a second discount on the PPU of the consumable good in response to a second purchase, by the customer, of a second preselected product; and

adding the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount on the PPU of the consumable good.

64. A method of providing multiple level discounts on a price-per-unit (PPU) of a consumable good sold in multiple units to a customer who purchases a plurality of cross-marketed products, said method comprising the steps of:

awarding a first discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a first cross-marketed product;

awarding a second discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a second cross-marketed product;

adding the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount on the PPU of the consumable good; and

awarding the total discount to the customer.

65. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 64 wherein the consumable good is gasoline, and the first, second, and total discounts are discounts on the price-per-unit-volume of gasoline.

66. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 65, further comprising:

issuing an electronic coupon to the customer, said coupon providing a unique customer identification and a unique transaction identifier; and

storing the total discount in a discounts granted database which associates the total discount with the unique customer identification and transaction identifier.

67. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 66 wherein the electronic coupon is selected from the group consisting of:

a paper receipt with the unique customer identification and transaction identifier encoded in a bar code imprinted thereon;

a paper receipt with the unique customer identification and transaction identifier encoded in a code number imprinted thereon;

a credit card with the unique customer identification and transaction identifier magnetically encoded thereon; and

a smart card.

68. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 67, further comprising the steps of:

inputting the electronic coupon by the customer for redemption at a gasoline station;
and

reducing on a gasoline dispenser, the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline by an amount equal to the total discount prior to the customer dispensing the gasoline.

69. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 68 wherein the step of inputting the electronic coupon by the customer for redemption at a gasoline station includes scanning the unique customer identification and transaction identifier from the encoded bar code with a bar code scanner at a gasoline dispenser, and the method further comprises, after scanning the encoded bar code, the steps of:

associating the unique customer identification and discount identification with the total price-per-unit discount stored in the discounts granted database; and

retrieving the total price-per-unit discount from the discounts granted database.

70. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 69, further comprising, after the step of scanning the unique customer identification and transaction identifier from the encoded bar code, the steps of:

requesting the customer to enter a personal identification number (PIN); and

verifying the PIN prior to reducing the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline on the gasoline dispenser.

71. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 69, further comprising, after the step of storing the total discount in a discounts issued database, the steps of:

storing, in the discounts issued database, a maximum number of gallons of gasoline to which the discount applies; and

storing, in the discounts issued database, a minimum purchase of gasoline required in order to qualify for the discount.

72. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 71, further comprising the steps of:

determining a value of the total discount redeemed;

verifying that the value of the total discount redeemed is less than or equal to the maximum discount allowed; and

verifying that the amount of gasoline purchased is greater than or equal to the minimum purchase required to qualify for the discount.

73. The method of providing multiple level discounts of claim 72, further comprising the steps of:

storing the value of the discount redeemed in a discounts redeemed database; and

allocating portions of the discount redeemed to vendors of the first and second cross-marketed products according to predetermined criteria.

74. A method of providing a discount on a price-per-unit (PPU) of a consumable good sold in multiple units to a customer who purchases at least one cross-marketed product, said method comprising the steps of:

awarding a first discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a first cross-marketed product;

issuing a coupon to the customer, said coupon providing a customer identification and a transaction identifier;

storing the first discount in a discounts granted database which associates the first discount with the customer identification and the transaction identifier;

inputting by the customer in a subsequent transaction, the customer identification and the transaction identifier;

retrieving the first discount from the discounts issued database; and

reducing the PPU of the consumable good by the first discount.

75. The method of providing a discount on a PPU of a consumable good of claim 74, further comprising, after the step of awarding a first discount, the steps of:

awarding a second discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a second cross-marketed product; and

adding the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount on the PPU of the consumable good.

76. The method of providing a discount on a PPU of a consumable good of claim 74 wherein the first product is gasoline, and the discount amount is a discount on the price-per-unit-volume of gasoline.

77. A method of providing multiple level discounts on gasoline to a customer who purchases at least one cross-marketed product, said method comprising the steps of:

awarding to the customer, a first discount on the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline in response to a purchase by the customer of a first cross-marketed product;

awarding to the customer, a second discount on the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline in response to a purchase by the customer of a second cross-marketed product;

adding the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount on the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline;

printing a paper receipt for the customer with a customer identification and a transaction identifier encoded in a bar code thereon;

storing the total discount in a discounts granted database;

storing, in the discounts granted database, a maximum number of gallons to which the discount applies;

storing, in the discounts granted database, a minimum purchase of gasoline required in order to qualify for the discount;

scanning the encoded bar code with a bar code scanner at a gasoline dispenser;

verifying the discount scanned from the bar code by comparing the scanned discount with the stored discount in the discounts granted database;

reducing, by the gasoline dispenser, the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline by an amount equal to the total discount;

determining a value of the total discount redeemed;

verifying that the value of the total discount redeemed is less than or equal to the maximum discount allowed;

verifying that the amount of gasoline purchased is greater than or equal to the minimum purchase required to qualify for the discount;

storing the value of the discount redeemed in a discounts redeemed database; and

allocating portions of the discount redeemed to vendors of the first and second cross-marketed products according to predetermined criteria.

78. A method of providing a price-per-unit-volume discount on gasoline to a customer who purchases a cross-marketed product in a sales transaction, said method comprising the steps of:

awarding the price-per-unit-volume discount to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a cross-marketed product;

issuing an electronic coupon to the customer, said coupon identifying the customer and the sales transaction;

storing the price-per-unit-volume discount in a discounts issued database which associates the discount with the customer and sales transaction;

storing, in the discounts granted database, a maximum number of volume units of gasoline to which the discount is applied;

storing, in the discounts granted database, a minimum purchase of gasoline required in order to qualify for the discount;

beginning a sales transaction by entering a customer identification and a transaction identification at a gasoline dispenser;

retrieving the price-per-unit-volume discount from the discounts granted database;

reducing, by the gasoline dispenser, the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline by an amount equal to the discount;

determining a value of the total discount redeemed;

verifying that the value of the total discount redeemed is less than or equal to the maximum discount allowed;

verifying that the amount of gasoline purchased is greater than or equal to the minimum purchase required to qualify for the discount; and

storing the value of the discount redeemed in a discounts redeemed database.

79. The method of providing a price-per-unit-volume discount on gasoline of claim 78 wherein the step of reducing the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline by an amount equal to the discount includes the steps of:

determining whether the discount is greater than or equal to the price-per-unit volume of the gasoline; and

setting the price-per-unit volume of the gasoline equal to zero on a gasoline dispenser upon determining that the discount is greater than or equal to the price-per-unit volume of the gasoline.

80. A system for providing multiple level discounts on a price-per-unit (PPU) of a consumable good sold in multiple units to a customer who purchases a plurality of cross-marketed products, said system comprising:

a discounts granted database for storing discounts;

means for calculating a first discount on the PPU of the consumable good in response to a purchase by a customer of a first cross-marketed product;

means for calculating a second discount on the PPU of the consumable good in response to a purchase by the customer of a second cross-marketed product; and

a system which adds the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount for the customer on the PPU of the consumable good.

81. The system for providing multiple level discounts of claim 80 wherein the consumable good is gasoline, and the first, second, and total discounts are discounts on the price-per-unit-volume of gasoline.

82. The system for providing multiple level discounts of claim 81 further comprising:

a point of sale (POS) terminal that determines the first discount and issues an electronic coupon to the customer, said coupon providing a unique customer identification and a unique transaction identifier; and

transmission means for transmitting the unique customer identification and the discount identification from the POS terminal to the discounts issued database.

83. A system for providing a discount on a price-per-unit (PPU) of a consumable good sold in multiple units to a customer who purchases at least one cross-marketed product, said system comprising:

a point of sale (POS) terminal that awards a first discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a first cross-marketed product, said POS terminal including means for issuing a coupon to the customer, said coupon providing a unique customer identification and a transaction identification;

means for sending the first discount from the POS terminal to a discounts granted database which associates the first discount with the unique customer identification and the transaction identification;

an input device for inputting by the customer in a subsequent transaction, the unique customer identification and the transaction identification;

a sub-system that retrieves the first discount from the discounts issued database; and

means for reducing the PPU of the consumable good by the first discount in response to instructions from the sub-system.

84. The system for providing a discount on a PPU of a consumable good of claim 83 wherein the POS terminal also includes means for awarding a second discount on the PPU of the consumable good to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a second cross-marketed product, and the sub-system includes means for adding the first discount to the second discount to determine a total discount on the PPU of the consumable good.

85. A system for providing a price-per-unit-volume discount on gasoline to a

customer who purchases a cross-marketed product in a sales transaction, said system comprising:

a point of sale (POS) terminal comprising:

means for awarding the price-per-unit-volume discount to the customer in response to a purchase by the customer of a cross-marketed product; and

means for issuing an electronic coupon to the customer, said coupon uniquely identifying the customer and the sales transaction;

a discounts issued database for storing the price-per-unit-volume discount and uniquely associating the discount with the customer and sales transaction;

transmission means for sending from the POS terminal to the discounts issued database, a maximum number of volume units of gasoline to which the discount is applied, and a minimum purchase of gasoline required in order to qualify for the discount;

an input device at a gasoline dispenser at a gas station for entering a unique customer identification;

a sub-system for retrieving the price-per-unit-volume discount from the discounts granted database, upon associating the unique customer identification with the stored price-per-unit-volume discount;

means for reducing, by the gasoline station, the price-per-unit-volume of the gasoline by an amount equal to the discount;

means within the sub-system for determining a value of the total discount redeemed, verifying that the value of the total discount redeemed is less than or equal to the maximum discount allowed, and verifying that the amount of gasoline purchased is greater than or equal to the minimum purchase required to qualify for the discount; and

a discounts redeemed database for storing the value of the discount redeemed.